

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. No claims are amended and no claims have been cancelled or added. Claims 1, 11, and 18 are the independent claims.

Drawing Objection

The objection to the drawings has been withdrawn, thereby rendering the drawing objection moot (*See Interview Summary* mailed June 18, 2007).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lewis (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,261, hereinafter Lewis). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Applicants submit that Lewis discloses mobile terminals 21 registering with a given access point 19 in order to carry out communications between the mobile terminal and other devices connected to a network 10. Lewis, col. 3, lines 53-55 and Figure 1. As the mobile terminals 21 move from a cell region covered by one access point 19 to a cell region covered by another access point 19, the mobile terminals 21 register with the new access point 19 as is known. Id., col. 3, lines 55-58. As such, the mobile terminals 21 are able to maintain wireless communication with the backbone 17 as they roam about. Id., col. 3, lines 58-61.

Lewis further discloses a pair of client servers 23a and 23b coupled to the backbone 17. The first client server 23a is responsible for handling processing in connection with a first application involving one or more of the mobile terminals 21 (e.g., carrying out a data

transaction application such as inventory control based on data received from the mobile terminals 21). Lewis, col. 3, lines 62-67 to col. 4, lines 1-2 and Figure 1. The second client server 23b may serve as an interface between network 10 and a public switched telephone network for voice communications between the mobile terminals 21 and a public telephone connection. Id., col. 4, lines 2-8.

The Examiner appears to read “dependent” on Lewis’ “mobile terminal,” “controller” on Lewis’ “access point,” and “master device” on Lewis’ “client server.” However, as discussed above, the mobile terminal does not unregister/register with the access point *via the client server*. Therefore, Lewis fails to disclose or suggest “initiating, *via a master device, unregistration at a controller*, the unregistration being of a dependent in communication with the master device” as recited in claim 1.

Because Lewis fails to disclose each and every feature of independent claim 1, Lewis cannot anticipate or render independent claim 1 obvious to one skilled in the art. Claims 2, 4, and 8 depend from independent claim 1, and thus, are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 as well as for their own merits.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to claims 1-2, 4, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 5-7, and 9-10 – Lewis/Farwell

Claims 3, 5-7, and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis in view of Farwell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,541, hereinafter Farwell). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

As discussed above, Lewis fails to disclose or suggest all of the features as recited in claim 1, the independent claim from which the rejected claims depend. Further, Farwell fails to overcome the noted deficiencies of Lewis. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claims 3, 5-7, and 9-10 be withdrawn.

Claims 11-17 – Stewart/Farwell

Claims 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart (U.S. Patent No. 5,633,888, hereinafter Stewart) in view of Farwell. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

The Examiner acknowledges that Stewart does not disclose “registering the dependent with one of (1) the controller and (2) a second master device & the controller” as recited in claim 11.

Further, Applicants submit that Farwell discloses base stations 102 through 104 monitoring the signal strength from a mobile unit 105 and transferring the signal strength information back to system controller and switch 101. Farwell, col. 3, lines 61-64 and Figure 1. The system controller and switch 101 determines which of the base stations is receiving the strongest signal. Id., col. 3, lines 65-66. If base station 103 has the strongest signal, for example, the system controller and switch 101 transmits an end handoff command to base station 103 commanding it to take over communication with mobile unit 105. Id., col. 4, lines 6-10. The system controller and switch 101 then ceases to send incoming audio information for mobile unit 105 to base station 104 and at the same time transmits this incoming audio information to base station 103. Id., col. 4, lines 11-15. Simultaneously, system controller and switch 101 performs internal switching operations so that the incoming and outgoing audio information for the call is now transferred to and from base station 103 for mobile unit 105. Id., col. 4, lines 15-19. In

response to the end handoff message, base station 103 sends mobile unit 105 a stop handoff message which causes mobile unit 105 to stop transmitting the synchronization pattern in hopping channel 0, and base station 103 then enters normal communication operations with mobile unit 105. Id., col. 4, lines 19-24.

The Examiner appears to read “dependent” on Farewell’s “mobile unit,” “controller” on Farwell’s “system controller and switch,” and “master device” on Farwell’s “base station.” Even if the Examiner’s assertions are correct, Farewell does not appear to disclose the mobile unit registering with the system controller and switch. As discussed above, the system controller and switch only transmits operation and handoff commands to a respective base station. The mobile unit receives handoff messages from the base station and communicates directly with the base station. Therefore, Farwell fails to disclose or suggest “registering the dependent with *one of (1) the controller and (2) a second master device & the controller*” as recited in claim 11.

Therefore, Stewart or Farwell, alone or in combination, cannot render independent claim 11 obvious to one skilled in the art. Claims 12-17, dependent from independent claim 11, are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 11.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to claims 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 18-19 – Stewart/Yamauchi

Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart in view of Yamauchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,310, hereinafter Yamauchi). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

The Examiner acknowledges that Stewart does not disclose “monitoring a strength at the master device for a signal transmitted by the dependent over the first frequency hopping sequence” as recited in claim 18.

Further, Applicants submit that Yamauchi discloses a mobile communication system comprising a base station and a mobile station that communicates therewith while performing frequency hopping based on a predetermined hopping sequence and in which *the mobile station outputs information based on the received power of a signal received from the base station* at a first frequency in the hopping sequence. Yamauchi, col. 4, lines 40-46.

In other words, Yamauchi discloses a *mobile station (“dependent”) monitoring strength of a signal received from the base station* (“master device”) rather than “*monitoring a strength at the master device* for a signal *transmitted by the dependent* over the first frequency hopping sequence” as recited in claim 18.

Therefore, Stewart or Yamauchi, alone or in combination, cannot render independent claim 18 obvious to one skilled in the art. Claim 19, dependent from independent claim 18, is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 18.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to claims 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

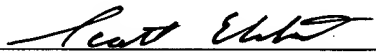
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By
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